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Posted by: [ivetteromero](#) | March 3, 2012

In Memoriam Nydia Ecury



On March 2, 2012 the multi-talented Aruban artist Nydia Ecury passed away in Curaçao at the age of 86. Ecury was born in Aruba on February 2, 1926 but lived in Curaçao since 1957. Peter Jordens reports:

Nydia Ecury was a true performing artist in the Caribbean tradition. She co-founded the Thalia drama group, she translated famous foreign plays into her native language Papiamentu, and she was an actress. She wrote prose, poetry, and children's stories in Papiamentu, Dutch, and English. She also worked as a translator. She published six collections of poetry, including *Bos di Sanger* [Voice of Blood] in 1976 and the bilingual *Kantika pa Mama Tera / Song for Mother Earth* in 1984.

Ecury was an ambassador of Dutch-Caribbean literature. She represented the Netherlands Antilles more than 20 times at literary festivals in the Caribbean, Venezuela, the Netherlands, and the United States. She was best known for her poetry recitals, often performed with musical accompaniment. She appeared as Mama Grandi in the film *Almacita di Desolato* (1986) produced by Norman de Palm. She also gained fame with her one-woman show *Luna di Papel* [Paper Moon] in 1980.

For her cultural contributions she was awarded a Netherlands Royal decoration three times. Curaçaoan pianist Wim Statius Muller composed the waltz 'Nydia' in her honor. In the last few years of her life, Ecury had Alzheimer's disease. But in 2011 she appeared on *Di Fiesta*, the Christmas CD of Curaçaoan jazz and world music diva Izaline Calister, singing the lead vocals of 'Un Niño Krioyo.' And this year Ecury appeared on the personalities' calendar of the New India Assurance company, which was designed by her daughter Caresse Isings. Ecury is also survived by her son, Alexander Isings. Nydia, sosegá na pas, rest in peace.

Information compiled by Peter Jordens from the following sources:

<http://www.amigoe.com/curacao/103613-nydia-ecury-overleden>,
<http://caraibischeletteren.blogspot.com/2012/03/in-memoriam-nydia-ecury-1926-2012.html>, <http://caraibischeletteren.blogspot.com/2012/03/nydia-ecury-is-niet-meer.html>, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XhNFndNZY3E> and *Konosé ... Who's Who in Curaçao* (2007)

Photo from <http://www.curacao-encyclopedia.com/?node=main&id=370>

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